

Tenneco Minerals
A Tenneco Company

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M/053/005



**DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY**

DATE: 3/12/91
COMPANY: Utah Division of Oil, Gas + Mining
ATTENTION: Wayne Hedberg
FROM: Debra Brannon
TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 3
RETURN FAX # (303) 987-6249
MESSAGE: _____

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C.C. Wayne Hedberg • DDGM
Debbie Pietrzak - BLM
Wayne Thomas - SWDHD
P.O. Box 2650
St. George, Utah 84770
(801) 573-1606



March 8, 1991

Bureau of Water Pollution Control
288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 16690
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-0690

Attention: Mr. Kiran Bhayani

Reference: Summary of Events at the Goldstrike Mine

Dear Mr. Bhayani:

Per my phone conversation with you on March 1 and March 4, 1991, this letter is to briefly summarize the events that occurred at the Goldstrike Mine over the past seven days.

Summary

1. Over the period, 4:00 a.m. on February 28 to 9:00 p.m. March 1 (41 hours), 6.28 inches of rainfall were recorded at Goldstrike. This precipitation event exceeds the design storm retention capacity specified in Goldstrike's Water Pollution Control Permit.
 2. In order to prevent uncontrolled overflow at the ponds, a controlled discharge from the process fresh water pond commenced at approximately 2:30 p.m. March 1, 1991. Treatment of the discharge began at the same time. The discharge was of a controlled nature, took place over a 35.5-hour period and approximately 532,500 gallons were released.
 3. In anticipation of another large storm event, predicted by the National Weather Service for March 5 or 6, 1991, an additional 250,000 gallons (approximately) was treated and released to the sediment pond from 6:00 p.m. March 4 to 3:45 a.m. March 5, 1991.
- Sampling at the discharge port, the sediment pond, and several other downstream locations began prior to and after initiation of the discharge. Each location was sampled at intervals throughout and following the discharge events.
4. The samples were analyzed for free cyanide using an on-site colorimetric analyzer. Selected samples will be sent off site for lab analysis. As soon as possible after receipt of analysis, a full report

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MR. KIRAN BHAYANI
SUMMARY OF EVENTS AT GOLDSTRIKE

DATE: 03/08/91
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containing the sampling data will be submitted to your office.

On March 6, 1991, water was detected in the leak detection sump for the process water pond and barren ponds. The flexible membrane liners for these ponds were damaged that day from mine blast fly rock. Tenneco Minerals has initiated repairs of accessible holes in the flexible membrane liner. Attempts were made to reach you by telephone at approximately 8:00 a.m. on March 7, 1991. Neither you nor members of your staff could be reached at that time. Mr. Lyle Stott and Mack Croft arrived at the mine site early afternoon on March 7, 1991 and the situation was explained to them.

If you have any questions on the above, please call me at (303) 987-6256 or Ken Klukadahl at (801) 574-3164.

Sincerely,

TENNECO MINERALS COMPANY



Debra A. Brannum
Environmental Services Manager

DAB:bas